

S 352

Sunshine in the Courtroom Act of 2008

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Law

Introduced: Jan 22, 2007

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 618.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 618. (Mar 13, 2008)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/352>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]
Party: Republican • **State:** IA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Allard, Wayne [R-CO]	R · CO		Jan 22, 2007
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Jan 22, 2007
Sen. Craig, Larry E. [R-ID]	R · ID		Jan 22, 2007
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jan 22, 2007
Sen. Feingold, Russell D. [D-WI]	D · WI		Jan 22, 2007
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Jan 22, 2007
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Jan 22, 2007
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jan 22, 2007
Sen. Specter, Arlen [R-PA]	R · PA		Jan 22, 2007

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Reported By	Mar 13, 2008

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Law

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
110 HR 2128	Identical bill	Oct 24, 2007: Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 17 - 11.

Sunshine in the Courtroom Act of 2008 - Authorizes the presiding judge of a U.S. appellate court or U.S. district court to permit the photographing, electronic recording, broadcasting, or televising to the public of court proceedings over which that judge presides except when such action would constitute a violation of the due process rights of any party.

Directs: (1) a district court, upon the request of any witness in a trial proceeding other than a party, to order the face and voice of the witness to be disguised or otherwise obscured to render the witness unrecognizable to the broadcast audience of the trial proceeding; and (2) the presiding judge in a trial proceeding to inform each witness who is not a party of the right to make such request.

Prohibits the presiding judge from permitting the photographing, electronic recording, broadcasting, or televising of any juror in a trial proceeding, or of the jury selection process.

Gives the presiding judge the discretion to obscure the face and voice of an individual under certain conditions if good cause can be shown that the photographing, electronic recording, broadcasting, or televising of the individual would threaten the individual's safety.

Prohibits any interlocutory appeal of the decision of the presiding judge of whether or not to permit, deny, or terminate the photographing, electronic recording, broadcasting, or televising of a court proceeding.

Directs the Judicial Conference of the United States to promulgate advisory guidelines to which a presiding judge is required to refer in making decisions regarding the management and administration of photographing, recording, broadcasting, or televising described in this Act.

Prohibits any audio pickup or broadcast of conferences in a court proceeding between attorneys and their clients, between co-counsel of a client, between adverse counsel, or between counsel and the presiding judge, if the conferences are not part of the official record of the proceedings.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 13, 2008:** Committee on the Judiciary. Reported by Senator Leahy with amendments. Without written report.
- **Mar 13, 2008:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 618.
- **Mar 6, 2008:** Committee on the Judiciary. Ordered to be reported with amendments favorably.
- **Feb 14, 2007:** Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings held.
- **Jan 22, 2007:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 22, 2007:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S837)
- **Jan 22, 2007:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S837)